

VZCZCXYZ0023

PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPG #0102 0461453

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 151453Z FEB 08

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0068

INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRAGUE 000102

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EEB/TPP/ABT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [EUN](#) [EZ](#)

SUBJECT: CZECHS IN FAVOR OF BIOTECH CORN, COTTON AND
SOYBEANS

REF: STATE 13142

Post delivered reftel demarche to Ministry of Agriculture Food Safety Officer Karel Riha. Riha did not respond until after the EU regulatory committee meeting on February 12, but he said the Czechs voted to approve biotech varieties for soybeans and cotton. He noted the Standing Committee did not vote on biotech corn on February 12, but rather voted on this variety (Regulation 1829/2003) in December 2007 (the Czech Republic voted in favor). The regulation on corn was not approved since a majority wasn't reached, but Riha expects it will be approved later. The Czechs voted on February 12 to cancel the approval of biotech corn under the old EU regulation 258/1997 since it concerned only certain biotech products such as food additives, while the new proposed regulation is extensive and includes food and feed, import and processing.
Grabner